

Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

Mr. Chairman, climate change presents a challenge to all of humanity. The bill before us today includes several groundbreaking international provisions to ensure America's role as the world's leader in the fight to save the planet, not as a reluctant and grudging participant.

Passing our bill will mark a historic turning point in this country's engagement with the international community on global warming. No longer will we debate and delay endlessly dealing with this crisis. No longer will we send low-level bureaucrats to crucial international climate change meetings with express marching orders to muzzle the science and to obstruct action.

I am very pleased that my friend from New Jersey, Congressman Chris Smith, joined me as the chief Republican cosponsor of the international provisions included in this bill.

Our legislation passed the Foreign Affairs Committee overwhelmingly on a bipartisan basis, and I encourage all of our Members to vote for this historic legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We all agree that the United States can be a leader on a number of global and environmental issues and we seek to find innovative ways to address these challenges.

This bill is not the answer. It is merely a compilation of regulation, increased funding, and the creation of additional layers of bureaucracy.

Title II of this bill, the Foreign Affairs title, sets up a new office structure at the State Department to focus on climate change, but it ignores the fact that we already have an office in the Department's Bureau of Oceans, Environment and Science that deals with these very issues. The bill is silent on how many new personnel will be needed for this new office and at what cost.

This legislation also seeks to ignore the current efforts in the existence of the senior climate negotiator and special representative by creating a new duplicative decision. Title II, section C, of this bill proposes a new, federally supported organization entitled the International Clean Energy Foundation, which would duplicate the grant-making work of the State Department, USAID, and the United Nations.

The bill authorizes \$100 million over 5 years for this Foundation and essentially guarantees that the Foundation will exist forever.

In fact, following passage by the Foreign Affairs Committee of a bill which became title II of H.R. 3221, we received an estimate from the Congressional

Budget Office which says that just the Foreign Affairs title of the bill would cost \$772 million over the years 2008 to 2012. That is \$772 million over 5 years.

A few short months ago, we had a debate in the House on the Intelligence authorization bill, which contained a provision mandating that the intelligence community use its resources to develop a National Intelligence Estimate on the issue of global warming. We thought that the majority would wait to receive an assessment of the nature and extent of the problem, as well as a range of factors contributing to the problem before having the House vote on this bill. But this was not to be.

As public servants, our overarching responsibility should be to do no harm. This legislation, I agree, runs contrary to that principle.

We all share a desire to do more to exert U.S. leadership in the environmental realm. We must be careful not to fool ourselves into believing that throwing money at the problem and adding layers of bureaucracy are truly effective ways of addressing this issue.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the bill, and I reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I yield to my friend from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) for a unanimous consent request.

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3221, the New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act. This bill will truly lead us in a new direction. By investing in renewable energy technologies and landmark energy efficiency efforts, we'll be creating millions of green jobs in our economy. With the government taking the lead in reducing greenhouse gases, we'll be setting the right example and setting the bar high. By encouraging high-pay-off energy technology R&D, we'll be spurring innovation in solar, geothermal, and marine renewable energy. And by taking steps to increase accountability in the payment of federal oil and gas royalties, we'll be doing more to ensure the American taxpayers are being paid their fair share in royalties from oil and gas companies.

One important addition that I believe must be included in the bill is a 15 percent Renewable Electricity Standard. I hope my colleagues will support the Udall amendment to put our Nation on a path toward a clean energy future.

Another important improvement to the bill would be the addition of a study of ways to improve the accuracy of collection of federal oil and natural gas royalties. The American taxpayers are possibly being cheated out of billions of dollars in royalties owed to them by energy companies, and an amendment I offered to the Rules committee to ensure such a study would help get taxpayers the royalties they are due.

Lawsuits have been filed alleging that energy companies are underpaying billions of

dollars in royalties because of these inaccuracies—or possibly because of outright manipulation—in the process for determining royalty payments. Many of these lawsuits have been settled; and we're talking about a lot of money here: In 2000 and 2001, major oil companies settled with the Justice Department for over half a billion dollars in two False Claims Act lawsuits over oil and royalty underpayments. In 2004, Chevron paid out \$111 million to the State of Louisiana for underpayments. In 2005, BP owned up to the tune of \$233 in a Colorado case. And, in a case still pending, Exxon Mobil may owe up to \$3.6 billion or much more to the State of Alabama for underpayments in royalties there. Certainly, for this kind of money, we can afford to ask the experts who understand the technical issues here to study the major underlying problems.

I am disappointed that my amendment was not ruled in order, but I am pleased to have support from Chairman RAHALL, in addition to support from the Project on Government Oversight, Taxpayers for Common Sense Action and Friends of the Earth. I thank Chairman RAHALL for agreeing to hold a hearing on this issue, and I look forward to working with him toward enacting this provision.

Mr. Chairman, the American people are ready to tackle the challenges of global climate change, to get on a path to energy independence, and to be a leader in the world in protecting our planet. They're ready for a New Direction, and I am proud that this Democratic Congress has undertaken the challenge. No one doubts that bringing this important bill to the floor today has been a long and hard fight. I applaud the hard work of all the leaders on this issue and urge all my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, just to summarize briefly some of the comments made by my good friend from Florida, climate diplomacy has been sidelined under this administration to such an extent that expertise and diplomatic stability in climate negotiations is now almost absent in the Department of State. It is long, long overdue that we reinvigorate the capability of the Department of State on the issue of global climate change and our legislation does that.

We are also creating a foundation not as a bureaucracy but as an institution to act as a clearinghouse of ideas and the matchmaker amongst foreign public and private actors working on global clean energy technologies.

Probably no single item has contributed as much to the decline of the United States' prestige internationally than our cavalier attitude towards global climate change. With a new administration coming in less than 1½ years, we preparing the ground that our global partners will again respect us and look to us for international leadership on this all-important issue.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2½ minutes to the distinguished colleague from Virginia, the ranking member on the Committee on Agriculture, Mr. GOODLATTE.

Mr. GOODLATTE. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.